

O'CONNELL
Application No. 09/286,469
January 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 2, 4-7 and 9-12 are pending in this application. .

Claims 4-7 and 9-12 have been indicated as being allowable.

The Office Action indicated that claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Onishi et al in view of Katsumata in therefore deemed moot.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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